Dear Jason-1 Data Product Users,

We are very pleased to announce the public availability of Jason-1 data products (Operational Sensor Data Records (OSDR), Interim-Geophysical Data Records (IGDR), Geophysical Data Records (GDR), and Sensor- Geophysical Data Records (SGDR)) to the public user community, effective April 15, 2003.

Jason-1 was successfully launched on December 7, 2001. Cycle 1 of the Jason-1 mission began on January 15, 2002. Since that time much work has been performed by the Jason-1 Project teams at CNES and JPL, and by the Jason-1 Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators (PIs and CoIs) to validate the data and science processing algorithms. We are pleased to note that the error budgets for Jason-1 and TOPEX/POSEIDON GDR are consistent with each other.

A first verification meeting was held soon after launch, gathering Jason-1 PIs and CoIs in Biarritz (France, June 10-12, 2002) to discuss the first global statistical and on-site calibration results.
During the first months of the Jason-1 mission, Jason-1 and TOPEX/POSEIDON satellites were orbiting along the same ground track with a time separation of only 73 seconds between the two satellite measurements at the same geographical location.
This offered a unique opportunity to compare the radiometer and altimeter measurements made by the instruments onboard TOPEX/POSEIDON and Jason-1. Indeed, the very short time separation effectively resulted with the two satellites measuring « the same ocean at the same time », so that comparisons could be made even at the instrumental level. On the one hand, this unprecedented situation has lead to very fruitful cross-calibration studies between TOPEX/POSEIDON and Jason-1. On the other hand, this also resulted with significant additional work for the Jason-1 Project teams at CNES and JPL as well as the PIs and CoIs, thereby contributing to a lengthened verification phase.

The second and final verification meeting held in New-Orleans (USA, October 21-23, 2002) provided an opportunity to extensively review validation and cross-calibration results. Major outputs were discussed both for the TOPEX/POSEIDON and Jason-1 microwave radiometers and altimeters. In addition to the findings concerning the Jason-1 measurement system, new findings on the TOPEX measurement system were also discovered. The extra time spent on the detailed cross-calibration of the Jason-1 and TOPEX instruments allowed the determination of the performance and consistency between the two missions as well as the direction for further improvement.

In a December 2002 « Jason-1 GDR recommendation meeting » held in parallel with the AGU Fall meeting in San Francisco (USA), a set of algorithm improvements was defined to allow the public release of the high quality Jason-1 data products to all users in April 2003. The Jason-1 Science Processing Software has since been improved to derive the OSDR/IGDR/GDR/SGDR products that you will now receive for science and/or operational work.

As it was initially specified, IGDR products will now be made available on a daily basis on ftp servers beginning with cycle 46. GDR products from cycle 46 and onwards will be made available on a cycle per cycle basis through the Internet and on media with the same time latency as for TOPEX/POSEIDON (approximately 30 days after the end of the cycle).
Data from cycles 1 to 45 will be reprocessed to produce the usual GDRs during the April to October 2003 time frame.
The AVISO and PO.DAAC teams will make announcements on their respective web sites regarding the delivery of these products : http://www-aviso.cnes.fr/ and http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/jason/

With our best regards,

Patrick VINCENT (CNES), Shailen D. DESAI (JPL)
Nicolas PICOT (CNES), Kelley E. CASE (JPL)

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APPENDIX : TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT JASON-1 DATA PRODUCTS AVAILABILITY

AVISO and JPL PO.DAAC are pleased to announce that Jason-1 Data Products are publicly available to the wider scientific community.

For your information, the plan is to release GDR cycle 46 by end of May on the ftp server.
To speed up GDR data product distribution, it is also planned to issue one CD per cycle for cycles 46, 47 and 48.

Further media release will be based on DVD-Rom, on a 6 cycle basis : this media will also contain the simultaneous six Topex/Poseidon M-GDR cycles.

The following web sites contain an updated Jason-1 User Handbook as well as further information:
http://www-aviso.cnes.fr/
http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/jason/

Data are available through the following ftp servers

AVISO	PO.DAAC
ftp spike.cst.cnes.fr (IP: 132.149.10.3)	ftp podaac.jpl.nasa.gov
name: anonymous	name: anonymous
password: your email address	password: your email address
directory "/pub/AVISO/JASON-1"	directory "/pub/sea_surface_height/jason"

For further assistance, please feel free to contact us directly,
Nicolas.Picot@cnes.fr or Kelley.E.Case@jpl.nasa.gov

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